

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 26-39, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 40-54, without prejudice, to read as follows:

- 40. An adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device, comprising:
- a group of at least two layers consisting of a desiccant polymeric matrix containing a regenerative desiccant agent distributed therein, wherein said matrix may also have pressure-sensitive adhesive properties;
  - at least one support layer disposed below said group of at least two layers;
  - a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer disposed below said support layer in the event said matrix does not have pressure-sensitive adhesive properties; and
  - optionally, a release liner disposed on either the top of said polymeric matrix having said pressure-sensitive adhesive properties or on top of said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.
41. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 40, wherein said at least support layers is a water vapor permeable layer.
42. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 40, wherein the polymeric matrix comprises at least one polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, silicones, polyisobutylenes, SIS rubber, SEBS rubber, PVP, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyurethane, polyesters, polyethylene, polyvinylacetate, polyamides, ethylenevinylacetate, polyacrylic acid, kollidon, cellulose derivatives and combinations thereof.

43. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 40, wherein the regenerative desiccant is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{CaSO}_4$ ,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 1/2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{CuSO}_4$ ,  $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ ,  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , silica gel, polyvinylpyrrolidone and combinations thereof.

44. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 40, wherein the material of the water-vapor-permeable layer is selected from the group consisting of paper, cellulose, nonwovens and perforated polymeric films.

45. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 40, wherein the material of the support layer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper and nonwovens.

46. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 40, wherein the material of the release liner is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper and modifications thereof.

47. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 40, wherein the polymeric matrix comprises further one or more plasticizers selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, glycerol, miglyol, propane diol, triglycerides, diethyl phthalate, tributyl citrate and combinations thereof.

48. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 40, wherein

the polymeric matrix comprises further one or more tackifier selected from the group consisting of rosin esters, hydrogenated rosin esters, hydrocarbon resins and combinations thereof.

49. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 48, wherein the polymeric matrix comprises further a moisture indicator selected from the group consisting of copper (II) salts and cobalt (II) salts.

50. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 43, wherein the desiccant is existent in a solid form and the size of the solid particles thereof is 1 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

51. The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 50, wherein the size of the solid particles is 1 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

52. A method of reducing the moisture content and/or maintaining a reduced moisture content in a closed gas space surrounding an adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device, comprising the steps of:

- a) converting a desiccant polymeric matrix comprising at least one regenerable desiccant in non-active form by activation into an active state and producing thereby a drying device as claimed in any one of claims 40 or 41;
- b) converting said drying device as claimed in any of claims 40 or 41 as a whole by activation into an active state;
- c) optionally, removing a release liner and placing said activated drying device into said closed gas space, and

d) closing said closed gas space;  
wherein said closed gas space in step d) is airtight.

53. The method according to claim 52, wherein the closed gas space is formed by an airtight packaging of moisture-sensitive articles.

54. The method according to claim 53, wherein the moisture-sensitive articles are selected from the group consisting of tablets, transdermal therapeutic systems and sheetform pharmaceutical administration forms for oral use. - -

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